

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Josef Czyrek, Polish Politburo Member (S)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
The Vice President
James A. Baker III, Secretary of State
John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff to the President
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Thomas W. Simons, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs
Condoleezza Rice, Director for Soviet and East European Affairs, NSC (notetaker)
Victor Litwinski, Interpreter

Joseph Czyrek, Politburo Member
Jan Kinast, Ambassador
Janusz Luks, Interpreter

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: May 15, 1989, 2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. EST
Oval Office

The President greeted Mr. Czyrek, noting that the United States is watching with interest the unfolding events in Poland. The United States government supports the process of reform in Poland and in Hungary and will do everything that it can to promote successful reform. (S)

Mr. Czyrek said that the Polish government is looking forward to the President's visit as a step forward in our improving bilateral relations. (S)

The President said that he was excited at the prospect of returning to Poland and remembered fondly his successful trip in September 1987. He remarked that the political situation is very different today. (S)

Mr. Czyrek thanked the President for his Hamtramck speech and for the support that he has shown for the Polish Roundtable agreement. He said that the events in Poland were historic. (S)

The President agreed that the Roundtable was an historic breakthrough but noted that there was still a great deal of work to be done, particularly in the economy. (S)

Mr. Czyrek said that the Polish leadership understands the need for economic reform but was troubled by the conditionality of the Western response. (S)

The President said that the United States conditionality was built in to encourage Poland to build a sound economic base. (S)

Mr. Czyrek said that the Polish government wanted to make a proposal to the United States. In order, to facilitate bilateral relations, the Polish government proposed formation of a Joint Commission. (S)

The President and the Secretary of State said that the proposal for a Joint Commission should be studied. (S)

Mr. Czyrek thanked the President for the meeting and said that he looked forward to seeing him in Warsaw. The Polish government would work hard to make the trip a success. (S)